

COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
(Advisory Committee to State Health Division)
MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.

*Bureau of Licensure and Certification
Conference Room
1550 East College Parkway, Suite 158
Carson City, NV*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

John Magruder, Chairman
Vincent Pirozzi
Scott Huntley (representing Steve Tognoli)
Pat Irwin
Sarah Sisson (via telephone)
Jim Miller (representing Stephanie Beck)
Fergus Laughridge

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

John Fildes, MD
Herb Brady
Kathy Kopka
Wayne Hardwick, MD
Rory Chetelat

HEALTH DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Alex Haartz, Deputy Administrator
Randy Munn, Deputy Attorney General
Connie McFadden, Administrative Assistant II

1. Roll Call/Approval of minutes from October 17, 2002, meeting John Magruder

Meeting was called to order by John Magruder and rolled was called at 10:10 am

Pat Irwin moved to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2002, meeting.

SECONDED: Scott Huntley
PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

2. Health Division Report
- Alex Haartz, Deputy Administrator
Health Division

Alex Haartz provided the committee with a report of Health Division activities. Mr. Haartz stated that during the last several months the Health Division staff at all levels has been working on preparing agency budgets for presentation to the State Legislature. The governor required that all agencies cut their budgets by 10%. The Health Division decided to realize this cut by reducing the Health Aid to Counties budget, thereby not reducing the operating budget of the Health Division. That meant that the EMS budget remained untouched. The governor's budget will be announced on January 20, 2003, during the State of the State address. After that time the budgets will be available for the committee's review.

Mr. Haartz advised the committee that there would be an orientation for new legislators on January 31, 2003, in Fallon. Mr. Haartz has been invited to attend and will give a presentation. One of the topics he will focus on will be Emergency Medical Services and the role of this committee, as well as the importance of volunteer services in the rural areas.

3. EMS Report
- Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge provided the committee with a report of the activities of the State EMS Program. Mr. Laughridge advised that EMS staff has been concentrating on completing the renewal process for those providers in the state whose certifications and licenses expired on December 31, 2002. As a result of the regulation changes, which went

into effect March 5, 2002, this was the first renewal cycle with both certifications and licenses expiring on December 31.

The EMS program is currently short staffed in Carson City and Tonopah. The vacancy in Tonopah is an EMS Field Representative position vacated by James Statler. State Personnel is in the process of developing the job announcement. When that is completed, recruitment will begin to fill that position. The vacancies in the Carson City office are administrative support positions. This shortage may result in a slowdown of paperwork moving through the office, but staff will work to keep this to a minimum.

John Magruder asked for a clarification regarding the procedure for submitting training requests. Mr. Laughridge advised that in an effort to streamline the process, training requests should be sent directly to Dick Swinney, EMS Education Coordinator, in the Carson City EMS office. In the past, the requests have been submitted to the EMS Field Representatives and they would forward them to the Education Coordinator. Scott Huntley stated that an explanation of the submission procedure could be incorporated into the Course Coordinator's Workshops that Mr. Swinney is conducting. Mr. Magruder indicated that he was not able to attend one of the workshops because he did not receive adequate notice of the dates and locations. Vince Pirozzi stated that Mr. Swinney had come to his office and provided him with a one-on-one Course Coordinator's Workshop because he had not been able to attend any of the group sessions.

John Magruder inquired about the timeline for presenting the Standardized State Protocol to the State Board of Health. Mr. Laughridge advised that it would be presented to the board at their March 28, 2003 meeting in Reno.

4. NEEDS Update

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge informed the committee that the NEEDS program is moving forward. The funding has been released and remitted to the vendor. Bob Heath continues to work with the program. Applications will be available for services that are interested. The vendor, Med Media, has been working with services currently using other programs to develop an interface so they can provide data to the WEB cur data repository. John Magruder indicated that his service is using the NEEDS program and it works very well for them. The service is in Winnemucca and their medical director is in Reno. The medical director is able to log onto the Internet and access the data for Winnemucca and do chart review from Reno. Pat Irwin requested that the Data Collection Sub-Committee meet to receive an overview of the program. Mr. Laughridge suggested the sub-committee contact Bob Heath and set up a meeting time. EMS staff will public notice the meeting when a date and location has been determined.

5. EMSC State Partnership Grant

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge provided the committee with an update on the EMSC State Partnership Grant. The State Health Division's EMS program has partnered with HRSA, Maternal Child Health and the University of Nevada, School of Medicine's Trauma Institute as part of the EMSC grant. The Trauma Institute administers the grant. The partnership has applied for the next three-year cycle of the grant. The focus of the application was disaster preparedness for pediatrics. This would encompass pediatric training, staffing and equipment for medical facilities throughout the state. The grant announcements for the new cycle will be announced in February.

6. Rural EMS Outreach Project

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge provided the committee with an update on the Rural EMS Outreach Project, which is a grant, awarded to Great Basin Community College in Elko as part of a partnership with the Office of Rural Health, AHEC, and the State Health Division's EMS program. The focus of the Outreach Project is to enhance training opportunities in rural Nevada, utilizing resources such as compressed video to take training to rural communities. An EMS Instructor course will be presented via compressed video in the near future. John Magruder indicated that the Outreach Project has provided funding for providers in the Winnemucca area to attend training that otherwise would be too costly to provide. Mr. Laughridge indicated that the Great Basin Community College has hired two people to coordinate the Outreach Project activities.

7. Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant

Fergus Laughridge

Fergus Laughridge provided the committee with an update. The grant was awarded to the Office of Rural Health, in partnership with the Health Division's EMS Program. The funding will be used to place defibrillators in rural communities throughout the state and to provide training in the use of the defibrillators. Requests for defibrillators have been received from 21 rural communities. The focus will be to place units in public places such as recreational centers, swimming pools, etc. State Purchasing is working on finding a vendor to contract with for the purchase of the defibrillators.

8. Public Comments and Discussion

John Magruder inquired about the ability of this committee to develop position statements on pending national legislation. Mr. Laughridge stated that, by statute, the committee is set up to advise the State Health Division.

Fergus Laughridge advised the committee that the EMS office has been in contact with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). At a National Association of State EMS Director's conference, EMS Directors from western states expressed concern about the fire service deploying medical personnel to major fires. These people are providing medical care with coordinating with local and state agencies and without being properly licensed or certified in the state to which they have been deployed. The NWCG is looking at developing national guidelines for medical personnel being deployed during a fire. State EMS staff are working with Nevada Division of Forestry to look at the feasibility of adopting the national guidelines.

9. Next Meeting – Agenda

Next meeting will be held April 17, 2003, at 10:00 am in Carson City.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.